

## **DESIGNATED PORT AREA FUND PROGRAM**

### **Introduction**

The 2016 Act Relative to Workforce Creation and Job Development (Section 3 of Chapter 219 of the Acts of 2016) calls for a Designated Port Area Fund within the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) which shall be administered and managed by a Fund Director who shall be appointed by the Secretary of EOHED. Further, the legislation states that the Executive Office is to adopt guidelines in consultation with the Department of Transportation that are necessary to implement the program, and that money in or received for the fund may be deposited with and invested by an institution designated by the Executive Office and paid as the Fund Director shall direct.

As directed in the legislation, the Executive Office will use the fund to make grants, loans or a combination thereof for the design, construction, repair, renovation, rehabilitation, or other capital improvements of existing commercial and marine industrial infrastructure and public maritime transportation infrastructure in Designated Port Areas.

### **Program Implementation**

The Secretary of EOHED has designated the Deputy Secretary of EOHED to act as the Fund Director. The Fund Director has designated the Commonwealth's economic development and finance authority, MassDevelopment, to serve as the institution in which money in or received for the Fund may be deposited with and invested by. In addition, the Fund Director directs that investments at this time be limited to design, construction, repair, renovation, rehabilitation or other capital improvements to the State Piers in New Bedford, Fall River, and Gloucester.

### **Program Guidelines**

Eligible applicants for this Program are limited to the State Piers of New Bedford, Fall River, and Gloucester. State Pier managers will submit annual capital requests to MassDevelopment, and MassDevelopment with approval from its Board of Directors will make annual awards within the parameters of funding availability as established by the Fund Director. In making investments in the State Piers under the Designated Port Area Fund Program, consideration shall be given to: (i) the impacts on future economic growth, commercial and industrial development, and wastewater and wastewater pretreatment within the Designated Port Area and on the commercial fishing industry; (ii) the attendant economic benefits to the Commonwealth; and (iii) the benefits to the Commonwealth's transportation system including the benefits derived from enhancing intermodal connections from the seaports to road, rail, and air facilities.

### **Annual Report**

The Executive Office shall submit an annual report to the Clerks of the House of Representatives, and the Senate who shall forward the report to the Chairs of the Senate and House Committees on Ways and Means, the Chairs of the Senate and House Committees on Rules, and the Senate and House Chairs of the Joint Committee on Economic Development and Emerging Technologies on or before December 31. The report shall include a current assessment of the progress of each project funded through the Program.

